

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LIMA 08349 242053Z

ACTION ARA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6804

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 8349

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PE, CI

SUBJECT: PERU-CHILE: FRIENDSHIP CAMPAIGN CONTINUES

1. HIGH RANKING OFFICIALS OF THE GOP HAVE RECENTLY BEEN STRESSING EXCELLENT STATE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN CHILE AND PERU. FOR INSTANCE, FOLLOWING UNITAS NAVAL EXERCISE IN WHICH CHILE JOINED US AND PERU IN MANEUVERS (AT PERUVIAN INITIATIVE), PERUVIAN COMMANDER SENT MESSAGE TO HIS CHILEAN COUNTERPART UNDERSCORING FRIENDSHIP OF THE TWO NAVIES. SUBSEQUENTLY, NAVY CHIEF ADMIRAL PARODI CITED UNITAS EXERCISE AS "A BRILLIANT ACCOMPLISHMENT" OF CHILE, PERU AND US.

2. ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF RICHTER PRADO, ON ARRIVAL IN SANTIAGO TO REPRESENT PERU AT CHILEAN INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATION, ASSERTED THAT THE ARMIES OF THE TWO COUNTRIES "ARE REACHING THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF COMPREHENSION, FRATERNITY AND BROTHERHOOD" AND CLAIMED THAT "INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN" WHICH ALLEGES POTENTIAL CHILE-PERU
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PAGE 02 LIMA 08349 242053Z

CONFLICT IS DIMINISHING. AND IN HIS CUSTOMARY MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATIONS TO CHILE ON ITS INDEPENDENCE DAY, PRESIDENT MORALES BERMUDEZ CITED THE "CONSTANT STRENGTHENING" OF RELATIONS BETWEEN PERU AND CHILE.

3. COMMENT: THE CAPSTONE TO THIS CONTINUING CAMPAIGN TO DEMONSTRATE PEACE AND HARMONY IN THE ANDES WOULD,

OF COURSE, BE A MEETING BETWEEN MORALES BERMUDEZ AND INOCHET. AFTER THE TRIPARTITE MEETING IN WASHINGTON, FOREIGN MINISTER DE LA PUENTE TALKED OF SUCH AN ENCOUNTER AS AN EARLY PROSPECT. BUT HE INDICATED RECENTLY TO THE AMBASSADOR THAT MORALES BERMUDEZ WAS NOT DISPLAYING MUCH ENTHUSIASM. ONE PROBLEM MIGHT WELL BE THE ATTENDANT DIFFICULTY OF DEALING PUBLICLY WITH THE BOLIVIAN CORRIDOR ISSUE. FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS HERE HAVE PRIVATELY REFLECTED IRRITATION AND EMBARRASSMENT OVER THE ACCOUNT OF THE TRIPARTITE MEETING REPORTEDLY OFFERED TO THE PRESS BY THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IN LA PAZ. (WE HAVE NOT SEEN THE TEXT OF THAT STATEMENT, ONLY TRUNCATED NEWS ACCOUNTS.) THE PERUVIAN MUST BE SOMEWHAT RELIEVED, HOWEVER, AT THE SNIPING THAT HAS BROKEN OUT BETWEEN CHILE AND BOLIVIA. SHLAUDEMAN

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